Contact: Michael Varela (562) 570-7777 michael.varela@longbeach.gov

Councilmember Roberto Uranga Appointed to the California Coastal Commission

The State Senate Rules Committee today announced the appointment of Long Beach City Councilmember Roberto Uranga to the <u>California Coastal Commission</u>, as a voting member. With this appointment, the City of Long Beach continues to establish its role as an influential hub of progress across the Greater Los Angeles Region and the State of California.

Long a champion of environmental preservation and community activist, Councilmember Uranga joins a cadre of concerned citizens, such as Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, in ensuring that our coastal habitats are protected from harm and that they are accessible to all our residents and visitors. "As a former Coastal Commissioner, I could not be more proud of Councilmember Uranga and our city," said Mayor Garcia. "Long Beach deserves a representative on this incredibly important body and I want to thank President ProTem DeLeon for supporting Roberto and our city."

With the support of key state legislators Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and Senator Ricardo Lara, the City of Long Beach has again gained representation on this very important state commission. "I cannot express the full extent of gratitude to my colleagues for having placed their trust and confidence in me," Uranga remarked. "Long Beach is extremely fortunate to have such great leadership at all levels of government and I am honored to complement the work of all those looking to improve the Great State of California for all its residents."

The Coastal Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial state agency, with 12 voting members and three ex officio (non-voting) members. Its mission is to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.

Councilmember Roberto Uranga was elected on April 8, 2014 to represent the Seventh District on the Long Beach City Council. Uranga previously represented Area 2 on the Long Beach City College Board of Trustees for 14 years. Leading efforts to upgrade classrooms and connect community colleges with other levels of education through the College Promise initiative, Councilmember Uranga was elected as the first ever Latino to serve as Chair of the national Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Roberto attended California State University, Long Beach, where he worked for seven years as an administrator in the university's retention program before beginning his 28 ½ year career with the City of Long Beach, serving in various departments including the Department of Health and Human Services. Roberto's bride of 27 years is former Long Beach 7th District Councilmember, Tonia Reyes Uranga. He and Tonia have lived in the Wrigley Area of Long Beach for 31 years.